

Kirtland Fire Department Receives Grants **by Chief Anthony P. Hutton**

In today's difficult economic times, it is essential that we seek alternate funding sources to maintain our high level of service to the community. One way we accomplish this objective is to apply for grants. There are many different types of grants available to the fire service, including Federal, State, Local and Civic Organizations.

In 2009 the Kirtland Fire Department received \$81,846 from five successful grants. The Assistance to Firefighter's Grant provided \$33,250 to replace the generator and provided electrical upgrades to Fire Station 2. The generator will provide uninterrupted power to Fire Station 2 and the Kirtland Service Department for 48 hours on one tank of fuel.

A Federal Fire Prevention Grant provided \$11,000 for permanent hydrant markers. In past years we have utilized wooden stakes that were placed in the fall and removed in the spring. The new markers will be attached directly to the fire hydrants. These stakes are made of stainless steel with reflective markings allowing visibility at night and during heavy snow in the winter.

The Lake Health Foundation provided \$25,596 to upgrade our Cardiac Monitors on our three ambulances to perform 12-lead monitoring and transmitting. The 12-lead system will allow our paramedics to quickly recognize when a patient is having a myocardial infarction or "heart attack". The 12-lead will be transmitted to Lake Health for a doctor's interpretation and the patient will be fast tracked directly to the cardiac Catherization lab.

The State EMS Grant provided \$4,000 to upgrade our Automatic External Defibrillators or "AEDs" on our two front-line fire engines.

The Lake County Health Department provided \$8,000 for planning for our "Point of Distribution" or "P.O.D.". A "P.O.D." is an area that is set up to distribute medications during the event of a mass medical situation. The "P.O.D." can distribute pills or injections depending on the situation. The Kirtland "P.O.D." is located at Kirtland High School and will serve the residents of Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, and Waite Hill. The "P.O.D." will be managed by the Lake County Health District, and will utilize firefighters, police officers, and city and school staff, along with volunteers to perform these operations.

During the past five years the Kirtland Fire Department has received nearly \$350,000 in grants for other items such as turn-out gear, radio equipment, computer systems, an SCBA compressor, and fitness equipment for both fire stations.

The Kirtland Fire Department will continue to pursue grants and alternate funding sources, in our effort to provide the excellent equipment and services to our community at the lowest possible cost to our residents.